

Dear Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission Ecosystem Decline inquiry.

I am a Father of 3 kids and active within my local community and enjoy travelling around Victoria and camping and bush walking.

I'm writing as I am alarmingly concerned about the overall health of Victoria's environment. We all critically rely on a healthy environment for our own health, well-being and prosperous futures. I implore all MPs and Victorian government to take action to protect and restore our wonderful environment.

According to Victoria's Commissioner for Environmental Sustainability 2018 Environmental review, the results are unacceptable. The results showing declining environmental conditions warrant a root and branch reform to ratchet up environmental reform/protection/restoration so that it is managed responsibly from now on wards. Much like the rapid Gov't response to terrorism, bush fires, covid-19, our Environment deserves much much better from the community and our government and all legislators. Behaviours of pattern must change and carrot/stick rule reform must happen to protect the environment. What is our legislators response to this environmental crisis????

Rubbish is routinely dumped by members of the community and businesses and has really been done to reform this? Very little, yet we expect behaviour to change?? Garbo trucks, pick up rubbish and recycling and regularly deposit rubbish back onto the road and nothing is done about this.

Houses are built in unsustainable ways due to lax standards. Insulation is regularly installed incorrectly, poor glazing designs and insufficient enforcement of energy conservation design and minimum energy standard enforcement.

Obviously, Climate change is happening whether we like it or not and whether we choose to adapt and counter it's affects and take advantage of opportunities or whether we sit on our hands. Victorians need leadership to show the urgent path to phasing out fossil fuel use. This is critical and a now situation. Beyond Zero Emissions research group

have shown a credible path to de-carbonising relatively quickly - What are we waiting for? More bushfires and ecosystem destruction??

Victoria needs a comprehensive program to remove introduced plants and animals and a massive replanting program to restore habitat across the state. We should also move away from logging native forests.

Victoria needs a comprehensive program to remove introduced plants and animals and a massive replanting program to restore habitat. Further, a fair-dinkum funded program to protect our threatened species and their environments.

The points I've raised so far are widely known and widely accepted as best practice to reform urgently.

I'm hoping for strong reform to flow from the inquiry as the status quo is not nearly good enough and yes, must take strong action to correct the path from decades of below required action and learn from the best science on environmental protection across all facets of our State and economy.

I am happy for my submission to be made public.

Yours sincerely,

MICHAEL O'FLYNN

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